

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
September 22, 2015

**CALL TO ORDER:** 6:30 p.m.

**INVOCATION:** Reverend Rick Boshoven – Trinity Memorial Lutheran Church

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL:** Mr. Widing was absent. All other members were present.

**PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:**  
None

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher dated September 22, 2015. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of September 8, 2015. Mrs. Miano made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**BUDGET & FINANCE:**

There was a brief discussion regarding the 2016 budget details.

**PUBLIC WORKS:**

Mr. Spann had no report. Mr. Spires spoke about the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The ADA curb ramps project will be funded by the CDBG. Mr. Spann made a motion to approve an advertisement request for bids on the ADA Compliance ramp project. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hardaway. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**COUNCIL AFFAIRS:**

Mrs. Miano had no report.

**PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:**

Mr. Pettit had no report.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:**

Mr. Widing was absent, no report.

**PARKS & RECREATION:**

Mrs. Miano had no report.

**ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:**

President Goralczyk had no report. Mr. Lake announced that the Merrillville Stormwater Resource Center hosted an Erosion Control Lunch & Learn, on September 16, 2015. He stated that we had full attendance at the workshop. Local engineers, builders and landscape companies attended, along with crew members from Indiana American Water. Mr. Lake said routine maintenance continues on Taney Ditch. He also stated that 53rd Court drainage improvement project will be starting construction next week. Mr. Lake said the plans are done for the Ross Meadows Farms drainage project.

**ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:**

Mrs. Miano had no report. Mr. Pettit praised the FOP for an absolute fantastic job done at the fundraiser for fallen Officer Nickolaus Schultz. Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve a \$500 donation to the Merrillville High School Choir for their performance at the Nickolaus Schultz memorial. The motion was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**

Mr. Pettit mentioned an engineering contract was approved to begin designing the 98<sup>th</sup> Ave / Ameriplex Crossroads project.

**UTILITY LIAISON:**

Mrs. Barron had no report.

**ABANDONED PROPERTIES:**

As a reminder, Mr. Hardaway said there is an Abandoned Blighted Properties Committee meeting, September 23, 2015 at 11:00 a.m.

**GENERAL ORDERS:**

**FIRST READING ORDINANCES:**

**Ord. 15-23:** An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, appropriating additional monies within the Police Donation fund of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana for the year 2015 not included in the current budget. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mrs. Miano. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

**Ord. 15-24:** Be it ordained/resolved by the Town of Merrillville that for the expenses of MERRILLVILLE CIVIL TOWN for the year ending December 31, 2016 the sums herein specified are hereby appropriated and ordered set apart out of the several funds herein named and for the purposes herein specified, subject to the laws governing the same. Such sums herein appropriated shall be held to include all expenditures authorized to be made during the year, unless otherwise expressly stipulated and provided for by law. In addition, for the purposes of raising revenue to meet the necessary expenses of MERRILLVILLE CIVIL TOWN, the properly tax levies and property tax rates as herein specified are included herein. Budget Form 4-B for all funds must be completed and submitted in the manner prescribed by the Department of Local Government Finance. This ordinance/resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval by the Town of Merrillville. Mr. Spann made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. Discussion followed regarding detail within the 2016 Budget. There was no public comment and no further discussion. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

**Ord. 15-25:** An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, appropriating additional monies within the Police Equipment fund of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana for the year 2015 not included in the current budget. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

**SECOND READING ORDINANCES:**

**Ord. 15-18:** An ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana prohibiting the sale or use gun-shaped cellphone cases and establishing a penalty for violation. Mr. Spann made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mrs. Miano. Discussion followed. President Goralczyk also read a response letter from the Congressman Pete Visclosky related to this matter. There was no public comment. The motion carried by a 4-1 roll call vote with 1 abstention.

**Ord. 15-20:** An ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana to amend the municipal code governing waste haulers, scavengers and scrappers. Mr. Spann made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mrs. Miano. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion carried by a 5-1 roll call vote.

**Ord. 15-21:** An ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana to amend the municipal code governing peddlers and solicitors. Mr. Spann made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mrs. Miano. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

**Ord. 15-22:** An ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana appropriating additional monies within the Motor Vehicle fund for the year 2015 not included in the current budget. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Hardaway. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

None

**BZA ACTIONS:**

**Petitioner:** James Strezovski  
**Owner:** James Strezovski  
**Request:** For a variance of use approval to allow a digital (LED) message center on a billboard sign.  
**Purpose:** For two sided 10.5'x 36' (381.6 sq. ft.) tri-wave and/or digital message center off premise advertising.  
**Location:** 7200 Broadway  
**Zoning:** C-3, Highway Commercial  
**Case #:** 16uV5-0515

Mr. Hardaway made a motion to uphold the BZA recommended denial. The denial motion was seconded by Mrs. Barron. Mr. Pettit abstained from the vote due to a conflict of interest. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote with 1 abstention.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Spires introduced new intern, Daniel Gronli. Mr. Gronli will assist Town Administration as well as Abandoned Blighted Property duties.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

All public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at Town Hall.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Abandoned Blighted Properties Committee meeting, September 23, 2015 at 11:00 a.m.  
Board of Zoning Appeals meeting, Sept. 23, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.  
Police Commission meeting, October 2, 2015 at 8:00 a.m.  
Stormwater Management Board meeting, October 6, 2015 at 4:30 p.m.  
Plan Commission workshop, October 6, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.  
Workshop to discuss rendering for Merrillville Auto Sales, October 13, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.  
Town Council meeting, October 13, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion to adjourn was made.

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Tom Goralczyk, President

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Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer